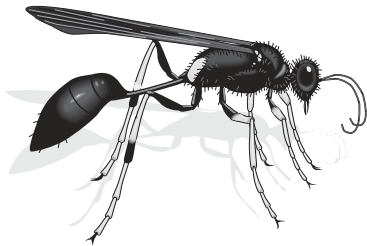


# Wasps and Yellow Jackets

## Description and Habits

There are three kinds of wasps common to residential areas of Southern California. They are **yellow jackets**, **paper wasps** and **mud daubers**. The females of all of these wasps can sting repeatedly (*unlike the honey bee female that can sting only once*). As with honey bees, these stings can require medical attention.

**Yellow jackets** and **paper wasps** are members of the family Vespidae and construct their nests out of paper-like material. These nests are attached to the eaves or other structural parts of buildings, in trees, or in the case of yellow jackets, usually underground. The paper wasp nest is typically an “upside-down mushroom” with honeycomb-like cells visible from below.



***Mud Dauber***

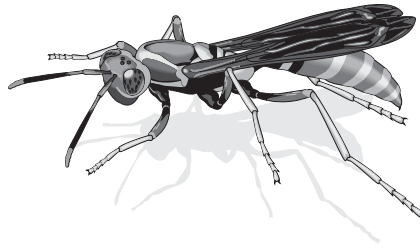
**Mud daubers** are members of the family Sphecidae. They build their nests out of mud and often attach them to structures. These wasps differ from the vespid wasps in that the mud daubers have a long, thin “waist” separating the thorax and the abdomen.



## Control

Removal and/or destruction of the nests is usually the most permanent means of control. Fortunately, there are several ways to do this:

Chemical destruction of the wasps in their nests can be done by using any one of the commercially-available pesticide formulations especially prepared for wasp control. These will have the



***Paper Wasp***

words “wasps” or “yellow jackets” on the label. Most are formulated in a way that a long jet of spray emits from an aerosol container, allowing treatment from a safe distance.

An alternative method for disposing of wasps is placing a pest strip containing dichlorvos as close to the nest as possible. In 24 hours, the nest can be safely removed and disposed of.

Both of these procedures should only be attempted in the evening when wasps are least active. Wear protective clothing (long sleeves and garden gloves). Be prepared to retreat to a protected area if necessary.



***Yellow Jacket***

Ground-nesting yellow jackets can be controlled after the entrance of the nest is located. Spray, after dusk preferably, into the nest entrance with prepared wasp and hornet sprays and then cover the entrance with dirt. Insecticides registered for wasp and yellow jacket control usually contain diazinon, malathion, carbaryl or pyrethrins.

## CAUTION

- Handle pesticides with care, and follow the instructions on the label.
- Apply only in amounts specified.
- Do not use near open flame or exposed food.
- Clean food preparation areas after use of pesticides.
- Store in original containers out of reach of children and pets.
- Dispose of container when empty so that it poses no hazard to humans or animals.

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